

## **Dalai Lama gives advice concerning Shugden**

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(TibetNet) The Dalai Lama has issued a statement advising his followers against the worship of the Dorje Shugden (Dolgyal) deity. He claims that veneration of Shugden creates the danger of Tibetan Buddhism degenerating into a form of spirit worship, causes obstacles to the emergence of genuine non-sectarianism and that engaging in this controversial and divisive propitiatory practice is inappropriate in the current context of Tibetan society, where unity among the Tibetan people is vitally important. The statement makes clear that he personally feels strongly about the negativity of this practice, and has requested that those who continue to propitiate Dolgyal, do not attend his formal religious teachings, which traditionally require the establishment of a teacher-disciple relationship.

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